

Submitter: Barbara Kahl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2995

Kevin D. Williamson published an article titled "The Case Against Reparations". In it, Williamson argues: "The people to whom reparations are owed are long dead."

Research for this subject is publicly available from numerous countries who resolved to manage reparations by giving a formal apology. For America, that list would be long and NOT isolated to one race. A task force is an unnecessary, wasteful use of legislative time as the work is already complete.

The link at the bottom thoroughly investigates the difficulty in the slippery slope of reparation. When will it stop? Do we include thousands of Japanese during WWII, do we include thousands of American Indians for theft of their land, do we include thousands of settlers for deaths by native tribes or enslavement of thousands of whites who toiled alongside blacks in America before 1865? What about reparations for millions of children in sex trafficking, or reparations for thousands killed by numerous gangs? What about reparations for business owners forced out of Portland, losing everything, due to State bad policies, in the thousands? People worked for room and board during the Great Depression. Is government going to pay reparations for bad financial management to all those who became slaves during that time?

Oregon's slave population was 40, and they were freed in 1847. If those 40 were still alive, perhaps reparations were due, similar to the entirety of the aforementioned list.

We don't have the finances to cover the Nation's deeds. Oregon did not have slave trade as in the south, every poor person was a slave of some sort at a time when jobs were scarce. Do they all receive reparations or are you playing the race game again?

<https://www.pbs.org/articles/what-are-reparations>

This bill opens a vault of wrong-doings by every race that resides in the US.

From the SoS website:

The Oregon Situation

While geographically distant from the national infection caused by slavery, Oregon was not immune. The growing divisions over slavery were imported to Oregon in the 1840s as waves of white settlers traveled west on the Oregon Trail with potentially

racist attitudes. These immigrants, betraying their Midwest and border state experiences, brought their hatred of slavery and free Blacks across the plains to their new homes. The great majority of these new Oregonians simply wanted to create an all-white society free of the racial problems threatening to cause an American civil war.

Amid the national turmoil, delegates to the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857 sought statehood to better control their own governmental destiny. They grappled with issues related to race and slavery throughout the proceedings. In the end, the delegates referred their questions to voters who overwhelmingly voted in November 1857 to prohibit slavery and ban free Blacks. Although the resulting laws were not really enforced, they still sent a message. Thus, while small numbers of Blacks were tolerated in Oregon throughout the mid 1800s, they struggled on the margins of society with few friends and fewer rights.

Oregon did not condone slavery. No task force or reparations are needed as those whom they might have been due, died long ago, all 40 of them.

Sincerely,  
Dr Barbara J Kahl